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ment for a few seconds, and finally darted off, without warning into deeper water.

The female remained quite motionless in the shelter of the stone, and was readily captured in a seine. Its oviduct was loosely extruded for about 5 mm., and from it there projected the tail of the single remaining young. This young fish was about of the same size as numerous others seined nearby, most abundantly over the bottom where strewn by kelp washed in by the tide.

This observation confirms other evidence that the period between copulation and the bearing of the young is one year.

The life color of this breeding female may be of interest. The gold color appears in the usual two bars across the middle of the brilliantly silver sides, which are tinged with gold posteriorly; there is also a smaller bar before these, and a trace of one along the margin of the branchial aperture. There is a blotch before the pectoral fin, and another small blotch which is located behind and below the pectoral, and is followed by a streak extending nearly across the trunk.

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NOTES ON THREE COMMON NEW JERSEY TURTLES.

These notes are taken essentially word for word from my notebook.

Mating of Box Turtles and of Wood Turtles. I have twice found turtles apparently either mating or just after or about to begin mating, though on neither occasion could I see any connection other than that one was sitting squarely on the other's back. Evidently, however, it was neither time a case of casually sprawling over each other like Painted Turtles on a crowded sunning-log. The Box Turtles

(*Terrapene carolina*), were on land in the woods bordering the bank of Crosswicks Creek below Crosswicks, Burlington County, May 9, 1915. I noted particularly that the plastrons of both were decidedly concave and to the same degree. The Wood Turtles (*Clemmys insculpta*), were resting on the bottom of a little brook in the Washington Valley above North Plainfield, Somerset County, May 14, 1916. The brook at that point flows through open fields more or less bushy. The turtles made off when disturbed, one going up stream and one down.

Egg-Laying of a Painted Turtle. On July 4, 1916, a I found a *Chrysemis picta* at Runyon, Middlesex County, just within the frings of short grass, *Arenaria*, etc., on the far side (from the pond) of an open space in the woods on the north side. She had dug a hole at least four inches deep (perhaps much more), and was laying eggs. I saw her lay three, at brief intervals. She would poke each one down among the others and pack it in with one or the other hind foot. After laying the last, she shoveled the sand back over them with her hind feet (which, normally so far apart, were brought to meet and even overlap), stamping and pushing it down, awkwardly, but so painstakingly and efficiently that when she had finished the spot was indistinguishable. The hole was less wide than deep, and the top eggs were under about an inch or two of sand. During the whole operation, the turtle's head (about half out), and body remained practically motionless, and I believe that she never saw her eggs, unless while I was away briefly she turned around expressly to look at them. All I have described (took place between five and six in the afternoon), she did while I stood close over her where she must have seen me. The animal had come about 120 yards from the pond, first through dense bushy growth (*Chamaedaphne*, etc.), then all the way across the open space where her track, fairly straight, was plainly visible. After cov-

ering her eggs she sat quiet, apparently resting before starting the long walk back to the pond.

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POISONOUS SNAKES IN THE JUNGLE.

It is quiet commonly maintained that poisonous snakes are very abundant in the tropics. After experiencing several months intensive collecting in Central American jungles, and after discussing the matter with other collectors who have likewise worked in the tropics, it is the writer's belief that poisonous snakes are not nearly so common as is generally supposed. The *species* are fairly well represented, but the actual number of specimens is comparatively less than in the case of the harmless forms. We employed natives to collect for us and few, if any, brought in any poisonous examples. They maintained that the venomous snakes were super-abundant and considered all annulated snakes (*Polydontophis annulatus*, *Coronella micropholis*, *Urotheca elapoides*, *Oxyrhopus* sps., and others), to be coral snakes, and all darkly colored, spotted snakes (*Xenodon*, *Leptodira*, *Petalognathus*, etc.), to be species of *Lachesis*. Many times were we given perfectly harmless forms which were considered by the natives to be either Elapine or Crotaline species. Hence, their usual statement of poisonous snakes being very abundant.

It is therefor advisable that the collector going into the usual tropical jungles should not entertain too high expectations in his quest for a large percentage of poisonous snakes, for he is very liable to have his hopes suddenly shattered.

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